GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3662
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2001
MECHANISED FARMING
PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received reports to the effect that there has been a significant change in the ratio of mechanised farming and farming done through the animals;

(b) if so, the details of the said ratio;

(c) whether the change has harmed or benefited the agriculture; and

(d) if so, the action taken or likely to be taken by the Government on the use of animals in farming?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a)&(b): Although no specific report in this regard has been received, the available data indicate that the contribution of draught animal to total power availability in Indian agriculture has been declining over the years. This contribution, which was 45.30% in 1971-72, is estimated at 9.89% during the current year. The contribution of tractors and power tillers to total power availability in agriculture during the same period has increased from 7.75% to 42.50%. During this period, the total power availability increased from 0.295 kW/hectare to 1.231 kW/hectare.

(c): As farmers have followed selective mechanization, the changes in the sources of power referred to above have benefited Indian agriculture.

(d): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has been pursuing research in theutilization of animal energy on the farm and in the development of matching implements for agricultural operations by animals. Besides, subsidy is also being provided to the farmers for the purchase of bullock drawn implements under various schemes.